

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MARTIN 00177 251756Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCA-01 EB-07 CG-00
DOTE-00 L-03 COME-00 JUSE-00 /022 W
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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO USCG SAN JUAN PR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0177

CARACAS FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPRS
SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF U.S. YACHT FLYAWAY

REF: (A) 75 CARACAS 5193, (B) 75 MARTINIQUE 0060

1. LOCAL FRENCH POLICE OFFICIALS ARRESTED MAY 24 PETER ERICH MARSCHNER, WEST GERMAN CITIZEN, D.O.B. 12 OCT 1938 AT PETHAU FRG, FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO FRENCH TERRITORY. MARSCHNER, SUBJECT OF REFTELS, WAS ARRESTED IN OCT 1975, CONVICTED FOR THEFT OF YACHT HERE, AND SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT AT FORT-DE-FRANCE. HE WAS RECENTLY RELEASED AND EXPELLED FROM FRENCH TERRITORY. AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST IN 1975, FRENCH AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED THAT MARSCHNER HAS STOLEN TWO AMERICAN YACHTS IN PUERTO RICO (THE DIANA OWNED BY ONE RAFAEL GONZALES, AND THE VAMOOSE OWNED BY ONE MELVIN R. MAILLOUK).

2. ACCORDING TO REF A, MARSHNER WAS FORMALLY CHARGED BY PUERTO RICO POLICE WITH THE THEFT OF THE YACHT DIANA FROM ISLETA MARINA, PUERTO RICO, AND A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST WAS ISSUED AT PUERTO RICO ON DECEMBER 23, 1975. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. ATTORNEY IN SAN JUAN SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED THE CHARGE ON LACK OF EVIDENCE.

3. THE FRENCH JUDIACIARY POLICE INFORMED US THAT MARSCHNER CONFESSED UNDER QUESTIONING MAY 24, 1977, THAT HE STOLE THE U.S. REGISTERED YACHT FLYAWAY JKVESSEL NO 260294) FROM WATER ISLAND, ST. THOMAS, VI, IN MARCH 1977. THE FLYAWAY S OWNER IS L. M. GILCHRIST, P.O.

BOX 2713, ST THOMAS. THE FLYAWAY IS NOW IN FORT-DE-FRANCE. FRENCH AUTHORITIES HOPE THAT GILCRIST WILL COME ASAP TO MARTINIQUE TO PICK UP HIS VESSEL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: (1) FOR LEGATT CARACAS: WILL APPRECIATE LEARNING ON URGENT BASIS WHETHER U.S. POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE INTERESTED IN THE PROSECUTION OF MARSCHNER FOR THE THEFT OF THE FLYAWAY. IN PARTICULAR, FRENCH POLICE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THERE IS ANY LIKELIHOOD U.S. WOULD WANT HIS EXTRADITION.

(2) FOR USCG SAN JUAN: WILL APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN LOCATING GILCHRIST TO INFORM HIM THAT THE FLYAWAY IS NOW AT FORT-DE-FRANCE. IN ORDER TO RECOVER VESSEL, HE SHOULD CONTACT MR. CREPIN, CHIEF OF JUDICIARY POLICE, FORT-DE-FRANCE (TEL: 712542) FOR FULL INFORMATION. OWNER SHOULD BRING WITH HIM DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING OWNERSHIP AND IDENTITY.
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